

Spring 2010

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The official magazine for  
**Chester Zoo Members and Adopters**

# Meet the orang-utans

see pages 8 - 13



# contents

SPRING 2010

- 3 **Director's Pen**
- 4 **Zoo Additions**
- 8 **Focus on Orangutans**
- 14 **Staff Go Wild**
- Kidz Zoo**
- 16 **Making a Difference**
- 18 **Natural Vision**
- 20 **Zoo News**
- 24 **Fundraising**
- 26 **Talking Conservation**
- 27 **News**



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# director's pen



Firstly, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

I am pleased to tell you that we achieved successful visitor numbers again during 2009, no mean feat during such a tough economic year and I would like to thank you all for your overwhelming support.

At the end of the year we also submitted the planning applications for the Heart of Africa project for consideration by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

These works form phase one of a major expansion programme that will transform the Zoo into one of the world's top five zoos. An outline plan for the entire Natural Vision masterplan development has also been submitted.

This hybrid planning application includes detailed drawings for the first phase. Future phases may include a hotel and conservation college.

The Heart of Africa building will be a 34m high tropical biodome that will house an African rainforest-themed sanctuary for a band of gorillas, a large troop of chimpanzees, okapi and other species.

You can read more about the plans in the magazine and I hope that you will be able to support us in our application.

As well as looking at our plans for the future, we have also been looking at ways of increasing our links with the city. In the next few weeks, a sculpture of a bronze elephant calf will take centre stage near Barclays Bank. We hope this will demonstrate and develop further links between the Zoo and Chester city, and encourage greater visitation to us from tourists.

Back in the zoo itself, we are gearing up for a busy year with a number of new arrivals on their way including the magnificent Giant Otters and Giant Anteaters.

It certainly looks like being the Year of the Giants for us and we look forward to seeing you all here soon.

**Gordon McGregor Reid** Director General

## Help the Society progress in the new decade.

Do you have the skills we are seeking?

### Become a Trustee

The North of England Zoological Society ("the Society") is currently seeking suitable candidates, to be recommended by the Trustees, for election by the Members to the Trustee Board at the 2010 Annual General meeting.

The Trustees' main responsibilities are:

- ensuring that the Society has a clear vision, mission and strategic focus;
- ensuring that the Society complies with all legal and regulatory requirements;
- acting as guardians of the Society's assets;
- ensuring that the Society's governance is of the highest possible standard.

In addition to its statutory responsibilities, the Trustees use their experience to give advice to the Executive team in a wide range of areas.

As the Society's activities have developed over the years, the range of decisions that the Trustees are now being asked to make is a great deal more complex. The commercial activities of the Society, mainly through the operation of Chester Zoo, have grown enormously and as such the Zoo is now a business with a significant turnover.

Within such a challenging environment it is essential that the Board of Trustees has a wide range of skills. The Society wishes to consider applicants who have an in-depth knowledge in areas such as Corporate/Tax Accounting, Corporate/Charity Law, the Leisure and Tourism industry and a wide business experience. They must demonstrate an empathy with the Society's vision and mission

The role of Trustee is one that carries significant legal responsibilities and duties. To be a Trustee of the Society is not a position of honour without responsibility; it requires time; Trustees meet on at least 8 half days a year – understanding, commitment and effort. The Society is looking forward to a period of major development with the creation of its new Heart of Africa exhibit and the immediate future promises to be an exciting and challenging time.

A Trustee's term of office is for 6 years and is not remunerable, apart from out of pocket expenses.

This is a challenging and unique opportunity to play a lead role in one of Europe's most respected visitor attractions and to be part of Chester Zoo's continuing success story.

Any Member of the Society who wishes to be considered should send their CV, together with a brief explanation of the contribution they feel they can make to the Society, to: The Chairman, NEZS, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH  
Please mark your envelope "TRUSTEE"

The closing date for applications is April 9th, 2010.

# Zoo additions



## Northern Hawk Owl

The Northern Hawk Owl is a new species for the Zoo. They are unusual in that they are diurnal (active during the day time).



## Arrival NEWS

Things have not been standing still in the animal department at Chester Zoo. Despite the holiday period and very bad weather. Over the winter we have brought in a new female onager and a female camel, both have settled in really well and we have high hopes for them breeding in the future. We received a second male Dik-Dik to be a future mate for *Khola*, our first Dik-Dik to be born at Chester and hand reared by senior rhino keeper Helen Massey. We have also brought in a female Red Duiker and plan to bring in

several more animals this year to form two breeding pairs and mix one pair with our okapi. We have also had a major change with the lions and moved *Asoka* to a new collection and paired *Asha* with a new young male Iblis in hopes of having a new breeding pair at Chester. The other major arrivals have included a new species for Chester – the arrival of a pair of fantastic Giant Otters and our first Giant Anteater for nearly 30 years. The anteater is due to be joined by a mate later in the year.



## Kirk's Dik-Dik

She stands just a few centimetres tall but this tiny new addition to Chester Zoo is making a big impact.

The tiny Kirk's Dik-Dik, which will eventually grow to just 40 centimetres tall, is being hand-reared by keepers. It is believed the cold weather may have put paid to her mum's maternal instincts leaving dedicated keepers to step in.

The youngster named *Khola* is being bottle fed milk and will be given a helping hand until she is old enough to tuck into a diet of buds, shoots and fruits herself.

The species only arrived in 2008 and the subsequent birth is a first for the Zoo.

Senior Keeper Helen Massey has been playing mum to the new arrival.

"Kirk's Dik-Dik is one of the smaller of the antelope species but what they lack in stature, they make up for in appeal. Our addition is growing stronger by the day and we hope she will be holding her own in the next few weeks," said Helen.

Native to Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia, the Dik-Diks get their name from the noise they make when running for cover. They can live for up to 10 years.

The female's parents came from Colchester and Hanover zoos.

# Chester Zoo celebrates safe arrival of rare Hornbill

Bird experts are celebrating the fledging of a very rare Wrinkled Hornbill. The young chick safely left its nest after spending almost 100 days inside a mud sealed nest log within the Zoo's Tropical Realm.

Once hatched, the chick's mother seals up the entrance to the nest with mud and fruit pulp, leaving only a small slit for the male bird to pass food through.

Chester Zoo is one of only two zoos in the UK to breed this species of Hornbill and this recent addition is one of only eight bred in European zoos in the past year. The species is threatened in the wild and is managed as a European Studbook specialist breeding programme. Stud books and captive breeding programmes help zoos manage their animals genetically, so they have healthy, well managed populations for the future.

Andrew Owen, Curator of Birds at Chester Zoo, said:

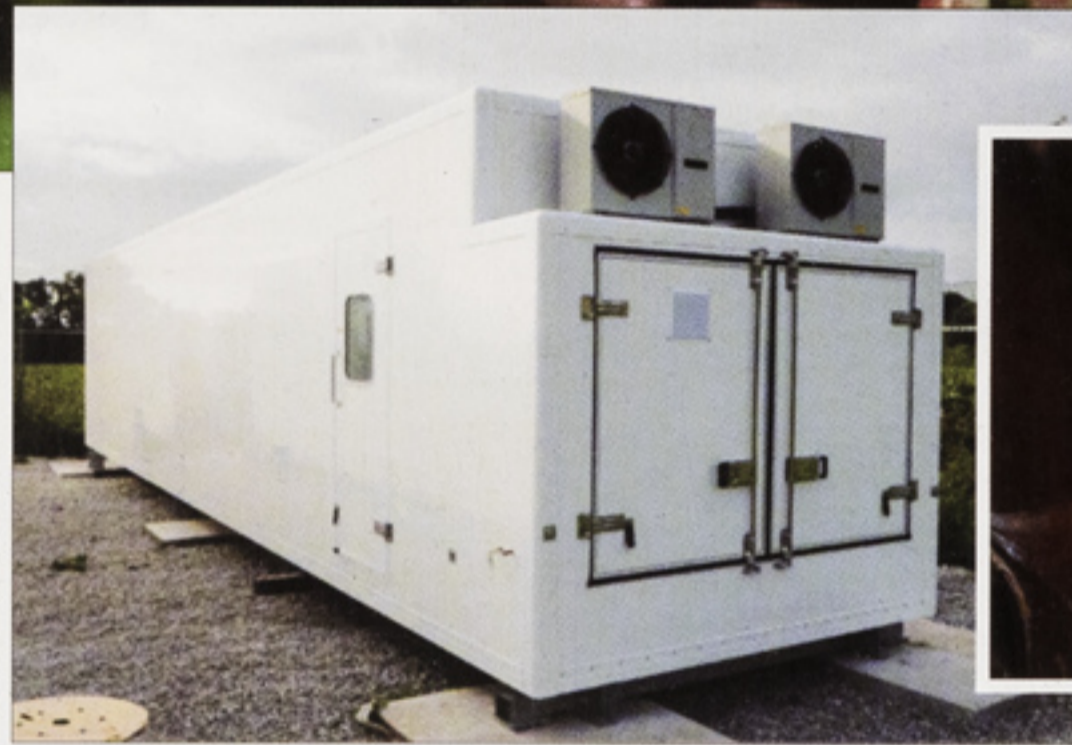
"It is fantastic to see the fledging of this rare bird. The methods of sealing up the nest used by the mother are interesting and unique to Hornbills, offering protection against predators in the wild.

"Wrinkled Hornbills are threatened by hunting and logging within their natural habitat. As excellent dispersers of fruit seeds, they are vital to the preservation of rainforests and therefore must be protected."

Chester Zoo supports the conservation of this and other Asian Hornbills in the wild in southern Thailand and in Sabah in Malaysian Borneo.



# Zoo additions



## APOD II – the return of the big metal box

**Chester Zoo holds the world's only *ex situ* population  
of the Critically Endangered green-eyed frog  
(*Lithobates vibicaria*) from Costa Rica.**

A frog population of this importance warrants appropriately grand accommodation and thanks to the generous support of The Oglesby Charitable Trust, this is exactly what they have. A brand new Amphibian Pod (APOD) was designed and manufactured locally following the specification of the Chester Zoo herpetology team. This new unit is situated beside, and is attached to, our first APOD at Caughall Farm and provides a dedicated and spacious facility for breeding the frogs in complete, climate-controlled isolation. This development released APOD I for another Critically Endangered species, the black-eyed tree frog (*Agalychnis moreleti*) from central America. Our animals originate from Belize and are the world's only biosecure and genetically viable *ex situ*

population as well as being the subject of unique nutritional research investigating the impact of dietary carotenoids on skin coloration and ultimately mate attraction and reproductive success. This PhD, in conjunction with Manchester University, will hopefully be followed by further research in 2010 including the impact on health and reproductive success of providing controlled access to ultraviolet light.

## Bushmaster

Later this year Chester Zoo hopes to become the first zoo in the UK to keep the infamous Bushmaster (*Lachesis muta*), perhaps the most feared snake in South America. Despite its formidable reputation and status as the largest venomous snake on that continent (perhaps that's why there are military vehicles and weaponry named after it), the Bushmaster is a shy and retiring snake that rarely encounters people and seldom attempts to bite unless seriously provoked.

The two young snakes we will receive were bred at Jacksonville Zoo in the USA but their parents originate from Amazonian Brazil. Knowing their history is essential for choosing the appropriate antivenin to stock in case of an accident as Bushmasters across their range from Brazil to Costa Rica have strikingly different venom constituents. The Brazilian Institute Butantan manufactures an antivenin specifically for Bushmasters in their country while the Institute Clodomiro Picado in Costa Rica makes a totally different serum for Bushmaster from that region. Just goes to show how important it is to know exactly what you're dealing with in the world of snakes.



# LIFE IN REALM OF THE RED APE

by SENIOR PRIMATE KEEPER CHRIS YARWOOD

**Realm of the Red Ape** opened in June 2007 and allowed us to radically improve the husbandry of the orang-utans. As a visitor walking through the building you can get an opportunity to view some of our Bornean orang-utans in the tall meshed over outdoor areas. Further into the building, you are walking through one very large exhibit housing our Sumatran orang-utans and Lar Gibbons. What may seem to be a series of separate indoor and outdoor areas are in fact all one, with connecting tunnels underneath the passage where you are standing. This allows the orang-utans and gibbons to move freely around the exhibit, they can choose whether to be indoors or outdoors and also choose if they want to be together with others, or spend time apart. Sometimes even the keepers have difficulty keeping tabs on who is where at any given time!! In the old orang-utan building, with its more basic set up, we could check all the orang-utans first thing in the morning by simply walking down one passageway, now we have to take a more decent stroll around the building and sometimes even have to find the animals via CCTV.

Our first objectives in the morning are to check all the animals are fit and healthy and then persuade them to move from area to area, leaving parts free of orang-utans so we can safely enter the enclosure and clean. We never go inside with the orang-utans. In order to coax them to move around from one area to another we give them warm diluted cordial drinks, they take this from jugs that we place on shelves at the front of the enclosure. As they drink we have the opportunity to check they are looking good and behaving normally. Once we are happy they are all ok we prepare the morning feed. This is the orang-utans favourite feed of the day, fruit! With the gibbons separated (because they eat so much slower) we scatter the food as evenly as possible over the high mesh roof, allowing the animals to feed above the ground, as they would in the wild, rather than forage on the floor. Should more extensive work need to be carried out in an area, such as replacing the plants, clearing branches, replacing or repairing ropes, we may leave an area 'animal free' while work is done, and you may spot a keeper 'on display'! Keepers then go to check and feed our six otters which live in the outdoor area containing the large waterfall and pool. They also have access to holts and an off show area safely away from the orang-utans and gibbons. The otters explore all over their outdoor area, but their main hobby seems to be waiting to hear a click or clunk of a gate or door as the keepers arrive to feed them their trout, crayfish or freshwater mussels. It's surprising just how much noise six hungry otters can make.

Our time in *Realm of the Red Ape* is punctuated with working in the old off-show orang-utan house, on the Ring Tailed Lemur Island and other duties including cleaning all the orang-utan viewing windows throughout the building.

We put the orang-utans and gibbons back together after a couple of hours and spread a second feed of vegetables on the roof. The orang-utans are not so keen to eat all the vegetables in one sitting, so the gibbons eat alongside them at this feed. Shortly after mid-day our sprinkler system waters the entire enclosure, keeping the plants watered and ensuring a level of

humidity. This is done in three stages so at any given time it is only 'raining' in a third of the building, allowing the animals to avoid getting wet. Oddly the gibbons sometimes like to sit in the rain, whether it's indoors in our 'artificial rain' or outdoors in the real thing.

You may spot an orang-utan taking special interest in a piece of fire hose, we give these out most days along with stalks of willow. Before passing them to the orang-utans we put sticky food stuff in the centre of the hose such as honey or porridge. They then use the twigs as simple tools in order to reach the treat. It's a simple enrichment device but the orang-utans love it.

You may also spot branches on the floor of the enclosure which the orang-utans have made 'nests' from. In the wild orang-utans will build nests high in the trees by weaving branches together to form a platform. Here at the zoo the orang-utans favour sleeping in the hammocks with some hessian sacks, but like to form these ground based day nests both indoors and outdoors.

They also use the ropes that hang from the roof to make their own hammocks. When the building was first opened all the ropes hung down and were purely there for the orang-utans to swing around the enclosure, but within a couple of weeks the orang-utans had found a new use for them. In order for them to 'rest' next to the public windows where they could view who was visiting them the orang-utans would thread the end of the rope through the mesh beside the window. Then, holding onto the short end they could recline on the longer bit still attached to the roof. This idea then developed once they realised that if they threaded it through again, it would actually support their weight, without them needing to hold on! If keepers remove the 'D.I.Y. hammocks' and let the ropes hang freely, the orang-utans will re-make their recliners before the day is out! The orang-utans seem to take special interest in children who have visited our 'face painters' or babies in prams.

Our working day ends with another feed, this time it is primate pellet, nuts and sunflower seeds which is scattered through the roof onto the elevated shelves on the back wall of the indoor enclosure. This is accompanied by another jug of juice and a 'sweet dreams!' from keepers. They then decide which hammock they wish to sleep in, and tuck themselves up for the night.

For keepers working with the orang-utans there is always something new, watching all the stages of development as the little ones grow up and seeing all those 'firsts'; the first time off mum, the first time investigating solid foods, or surprises like a magpie finding its way into the indoor area, but unable to find its own way out. The building itself, being fairly new, is something we are still experimenting with, such as how to optimise the lifespan of the plants in the orang-utan areas and make them flourish before an orang-utan decides to snap off yet another branch to use in a day nest. Our method of housing our orang-utans in *Realm of the Red Ape* is fairly unique, and moves us away from the more usual indoors/outdoors/night quarters set up. Meet the Zoo's orang-utans over the page.



## The Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project

A face to face encounter with an orang-utan is not a rarity when visiting the *Realm of the Red Ape* exhibit at Chester Zoo. You are often left wondering who is the more inquisitive about whom.

What you may not realise, as you watch orang-utan junior and a gibbon play acrobatic tag, is that by visiting the zoo you are helping protect the orang-utans of Malaysia.

The peat-swamp forests that flank the Kinabatangan River in Sabah, Malaysia, are areas of exceptional biodiversity. A significant proportion of Borneo's orang-utans, and multitude of other species, call it home.

The forests though are shrinking, 80% has been lost already. Wildlife in many areas must now transverse a sea of palm oil plantation to move from one forest fragment to another. Food and shelter are an increasingly rare commodity for many species. Without urgent help wild orang-utans will disappear.

Enter Hutan – the organisation Chester Zoo partners to support the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project (or KOCP for short). Together Hutan and Chester Zoo are fighting to save the wildlife of Kinabatangan.

The KOCP has been at the forefront of forging alliances for conservation in the region. Government officials, leaders of commerce and conservationists are communicating; forests are being saved and plans being drawn up which provide a ray of light for the future of Kinabatangan wildlife.

KOCP research, utilising locally trained field staff, has been key to management decisions. Forest corridors are being regenerated, children are being taught the importance of nature and communities are reaping the benefits of ecotourism – all made possible by the activities of KOCP.

Chester Zoo, through your support, proudly partners the KOCP – together we are making a difference. Together we can make sure the *Realm of the Red Ape* doesn't just exist in zoos.

For more information on the KOCP, and other Chester Zoo conservation programmes, visit the conservation pages of [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org).

Picture © KOCP

Senior Primate Keeper Chris Yarwood introduces Chester Zoo's orang-utans. Chris has worked with them for 12 years.

# Sumatran Orang-utans

## Puluh

*Puluh* is our fully grown Sumatran male orang-utan, he is powerful and majestic to look at, but his true character is both shy and gentle. He arrived at Chester in 1996 from Perth Zoo, Australia and is now in his prime at 22 years old. He is father to six offspring. Orang-utans, unlike most primates, are solitary creatures but here at the zoo we keep our Sumatran orang-utans together all the time. *Puluh* is very tolerant of the other orang-utans, big and small that share his domain! He doesn't seem to mind sharing with the gibbons either, but takes offence when the otters try to investigate him if he is sat on the ground and will chase them off. You can appreciate just how big *Puluh* is when he is sat alongside his youngest offspring *Indah* or *Kirana*, and just how spectacular he is when swinging between the vertically hanging ropes we have throughout their indoor areas. He is sometimes difficult to spot, because despite his size and power he will run and hide, in a tunnel or behind a bush, at the slightest thing that is out of the ordinary. *Puluh* doesn't like much human interaction as he has grown and matured, but when he does interact with keepers it is still with a gentleness that makes working with him so special.

## Subis and Emma

*Subis* and *Emma* are our breeding females. Full sisters, both born here at Chester in 1986 and 1987, they had to be hand-reared after being rejected by their mother. One of our proudest achievements with the orang-utans here at Chester is not only our successful breeding record but the fact that we have two hand-reared females that are rearing infants themselves. Very often orang-utans lose their ability to rear offspring if they weren't parent reared themselves but *Subis* and *Emma* could both observe our older females with babies before they gave birth themselves, and they seem to have picked up enough maternal skills from them.

*Subis* is the elder of the sisters and was also the first to give birth in 1998. It has to be said that *Subis* wasn't the world's greatest mother first time around, but her daughter *Jambi* (who is now living at Budapest Zoo), despite being abandoned for many short occasions, being covered over with hessian sacks, or being left in shallow holes out of sight and presumably out of mind managed to be reared successfully by *Subis*. With each subsequent birth *Subis* has got better and now with her third infant '*Kirana*' is a model mum! *Subis* tends to prefer some keepers more than others, generally she is quite well behaved when male keepers are in the building but she does have quite a devious streak and tends to exhibit this when female keepers are around!

*Emma* is a bit bigger built than *Subis* and likes to keep an eye on anything her keepers are getting up to, at feed times *Emma* is usually first in the queue. *Emma* was introduced to *Subis* when they were both infants and the bond was so great that until *Subis* gave birth they were inseparable, but being the younger sibling *Emma* found herself having to do and go exactly where *Subis* wanted! These days *Emma* calls the shots and *Subis* has to get out of *Emma*'s way! *Emma* surprised us all with the birth of her 3rd infant '*Indah*', giving birth just short of 4 years since her 2nd infant '*Utara*', usually there are 4-5 year birth intervals between orang-utans in zoos and even longer in the wild ... so *Indah*'s arrival was a pleasant shock!

Being hand-reared *Subis* and *Emma* are a bit more fixated on humans than normal. And they enjoy swinging up to sit alongside the windows, in the indoor areas, to take a closer look at who is visiting them today ... next time, if you are lucky, it might be you and you can find yourself virtually nose to nose with an adult orang-utan!!

## Padang

*Padang* was *Emma*'s first youngster and he is now 11 years old. *Padang* (or '*Paddy*' to his friends) is a very forward, confident and friendly orang-utan. He is still a very playful young lad with his younger siblings, his dad *Puluh*, and even the gibbons. He is now roughly the same size as an adult female and we will soon be having to say 'Goodbye' to him as he needs to join another group of orang-utans and hopefully become a father to his own little ones! It is always a sad day when one of our orang-utans leaves the collection, but we make sure they are going to good facilities and a keeper travels with them from Chester and stays for at least a week to settle them in and work alongside the new keepers, passing on knowledge on how to manage that individual and keep them happy. I'm sure wherever he goes they couldn't ask for a better male orang-utan!

## Utara and Budi

*Utara* and *Budi* were the second infants to be born to *Emma* and *Subis*, and like *Padang* and *Jambi* were born within a few months of one another. Although it can't be planned, when this happens it is fantastic for the infants to have a playmate to grow up with. Having a similar sized wrestling companion seems to make them more confident and climbing around aids their physical development too! *Utara* is very confident and it is probable that because she spent a lot of time exploring and playing when they moved into *Realm of the Red Ape* *Emma* came into season and had her next baby earlier. *Utara* also enjoys the attention of keepers and loves to have her back and under her arms tickled. She can be distinguished from *Budi* as she always has an all-over pom-pom hair style, where *Budi* has quite short hair on his head. *Budi* is a joyful little soul, and until *Kirana* was born was something of a mummy's boy! *Subis* was perfecting her mothering skills with him and was extremely protective. Even when *Kirana* was born *Subis* would stick by him and when keepers were moving the animals around the building she would make sure he was never left behind.

## Indah and Kirana

These are the zoo's youngest Sumatran orang-utans, *Indah* was born in 2008 and *Kirana* in 2009. They are presently both venturing off mum and climbing around on their own but still spending most of their time securely attached to their mums chests. At this stage it is hard to predict what characters they will grow to be in the future, but in light of previous Sumatran youngsters born in the last 12 years and the opportunity to grow up in our spacious facilities I am hopeful they too will turn out to be happy, confident orang-utans.

Kirana



Puluh



Subis



Emma



Padang



Utara



Budi



Indah

Sarika

# Bornean orang-utans

Our Bornean orang-utans indoor housing is in the old ape house. They have more space since the Sumatran group moved into *Realm of the Red Ape*, but if indoors are unfortunately off show.



Martha

## Martha

Martha is the oldest orang-utan in the Zoo and also the oldest in the UK. She is now 46 years old and has been at Chester since 1966. She has raised many infants over the years and when our new male *Tuan* arrived we were unsure if she would produce any more babies. Despite lots of matings no babies appeared and due to her age, and *Tuan* being a bit rough with her, it was felt she should be separated from him and now spends time with her daughters *Sarikei* and *Leia*, and their offspring. *Martha* has mellowed with age, she enjoys keeper company and is very inquisitive. She can even be seen on warm days in the 'meshed over' outdoor enclosure, sometimes sharing one of the fire hose hammocks with *Gromit* our female gibbon. She likes sitting out in the sun but often shields her eyes with her hand, making it look like all that sunbathing is really hard work. She may be an old girl, but I hope she is with us for many years to come.

## Tuan

*Tuan* was born in 1978 in Cologne and arrived with us in June 2007. Since his arrival he has spent 6 months in quarantine, been introduced to our female Bornean orang-utans and fathered two babies. So it has proved to be a productive move for him! When he was first introduced to our females he mated them all within days, but then just seemed to be infatuated with *Martha*. Over the proceeding months we kept our fingers crossed that a baby would be born, but all his attention was being aimed at *Martha*. When *Sarikei* and *Leia* gave birth it proved that *Tuan* was also showing them his affections also, but being very low key about it. *Tuan* is very vocal when people are around and can be very excitable, but after a lot of time getting to know his new keepers he is now much more relaxed with us and loves attention. We have him separated from the girls at the moment to see how he progresses. With his start at Chester showing a more unpredictable nature than *Puluh*, and *Leia* being a first time mum we felt it was a safer option to let them spend time apart. *Tuan* seems content in his own company, but will be re-introduced back to the girls in time.



Tuan



Jeremy

## Lar Gibbons

### Gilang, Alfie and Jeremy

Our three boys live with our Sumatran orang-utans. The only time we separate them is for a couple of hours each morning when we give them their fruit feeds. The gibbons are quite slow eaters, especially when compared to the orang-utans, so we give them this time on their own in order to get their full quota of fruit. It was a bit of an experiment when they arrived as the Zoo had never housed gibbons with orang-utans before. It generally works very well, the gibbons naturally avoid the larger orang-utans but will play with the smaller ones. But if a large orang-utan is in their way, blocking a tunnel for example they will speed through regardless and have even been seen to use *Puluhs* head as a springboard. One of the things they do that often shocks visitors is to go to sleep with their feet anchored around one of the eyelets in the wall. As the toes curl around the eyelet it sometimes looks like the gibbon is glued with its back against the wall, miraculously defying gravity!

### Gromit

*Gromit* is our female Lar gibbon who currently lives with our Bornean orang-utan females following an altercation in our gibbon group. As the two younger gibbon males have matured it seems they were no longer happy living together, so *Gromit* is currently awaiting a home in another collection. Until then she seems more than happy mixing with our orang-utan girls! *Gromit* is friendlier with keepers than the other gibbons, which just stay up high. When we find her a new home she will be missed, but hopefully she will be even happier with a new gibbon mate.



Sarikei



Iznee



Leia and Latifah

### Sarikei and Iznee

*Sarikei* is *Martha's* daughter and was born at Chester in 1983. She is a well built orang-utan, and a great mother. Her previous offspring *Matu* was born in 1995 and is now living in Kristiansand, Norway. Until *Tuan's* arrival we didn't have a Bornean male with whom she could be paired and breed. Seeing her being a mum again with baby *Iznee*, born April 2009, is just fantastic. We talk a lot in the Zoo about enrichment for our animals but certainly with orang-utan females there is no better enrichment than a little one to care for. *Iznee* has now reached the stage where he is climbing off mum and exploring the surrounding couple of metres around her. By summer time he will be at a stage where he is climbing properly around on his own, so look out for him in the first outdoor area when you next visit *Realm of the Red Ape*.

### Leia and Latifah

*Leia* was born in 1995 and is *Martha's* last offspring. For an extended period of time she was *Martha's* pride and joy, due to *Martha* not giving birth again. When most orang-utans would be exploring on their own and learning the joys of independence as mum concentrates on the next baby, *Leia* had an extended childhood. She had *Martha* for company all the time and if something upset her she had *Martha* to back her up... which turned her into something of a spoilt princess, and being a princess is apt for her name! When *Leia* gave birth it was still something of a worry, how would she adapt to being the carer not the cared for? Fortunately she has proved herself to be a very attentive mother. So when it came to name the baby and I saw the name '*Latifah*', not only did I think *Leia & Latifah* sounded right, I instantly thought of Princess *Leia* and Queen *Latifah*! I'm just hoping that *Latifah* doesn't grow up to be quite such a little madam as her mother!

# Sumatran Orang-utans the 'conservation ambassador' for the rainforest



## Orang-utan Ecotourism Development Programme

In the heart of Sumatra, the Gunung Leuser National Park is the last stronghold of the island's critically endangered orang-utan population. The orang-utan is one of the biggest drawing points attracting tourists to the Indonesian island, but there are now less than 6,650 left in the wild. So how do we ensure that visits are done in a sustainable manner to ensure the ongoing survival of this keystone species?

We work with the locals and the tourists, providing education, information and training, that's how!

In 2008, the Sumatran Orang-utan Society (SOS) and our partner organisation the Orang-utan Information Centre (OIC) applied for funds from Chester Zoo. We needed help to set up a new initiative that would work with local communities, guides and visitors in Bukit Lawang; a UNESCO World Heritage Site and ex-orang-utan rehabilitation centre. The big population of semi-wild and wild orang-utans attracts thousands of tourists every year and we want to promote the orang-utan as the 'conservation ambassador' for their rainforest habitat.

Though it is strictly forbidden to touch, feed, or disturb the orang-utans, such practices still occur for the enjoyment of tourists. Large groups are often brought within close proximity and in actual physical contact with the orang-utans. This is a major cause for concern in terms of disease transfer, as there is such a close genetic relationship between humans and orang-utans. Forest guides also often feed the animals in order to lure them towards a group of tourists, which discourages the semi-wild population from reducing their dependence on humans. These are some of the reasons why SOS deemed it necessary to get an ecotourism programme up and running in Bukit Lawang.

In late 2008 we initiated a training programme for the guides, working with the local guide association, Himpunan Pramuwisata Indonesia (HPI). Prior to this there was little educational value to the Bukit Lawang experience; during the training session we actually found that most of the guides had little or no knowledge about the rainforest in general, not to mention the orang-utans. All tourists wanting to visit these areas must be accompanied by an HPI approved guide. Therefore, ensuring that the guides have a high level of knowledge about the forest and conservation issues is the best way to educate visitors. We provided the guides who successfully completed the training programme with handbooks, certificates and uniforms making it attractive for them to attend the sessions.



## FACTBOX

### Did you know?

- That with less than 6,650 Sumatran Orang-utans left in the wild they are critically endangered;
- The Sumatran orang-utan is a separate species from its Borneo relative;
- Annual rates of forest loss in Sumatra exceeds 15% every year;
- Globally, an area equivalent to 80 football pitches of rainforest is lost every day;
- SOS founded the OIC in 2001, collaborating with a team of dedicated Indonesian conservationists;
- The Gunung Leuser National Park is considered the last stronghold of the Sumatran orang-utan;
- OIC is the first and only NGO that has been allowed to conduct rainforest restoration within the national park!

You can sponsor a tree seedling at [www.justgiving.com/restore\\_rainforest](http://www.justgiving.com/restore_rainforest)

In addition to training local guides, an important aspect of our ecotourism project has been to create easily accessible information throughout the area. Prior to this, there was no visitor information centre, no signboards and no guidelines advising the park visitors. So we created big signboards with national park guidelines and general visitors' information, a mini-field guide to Bukit Lawang and an instructional film which is screened to all visitors before heading into the park (all in Indonesian and English). We have also renovated the Bukit Lawang information centre, which was badly damaged not only due to weather conditions but had sustained damage in a clash with one of the semi-wild orang-utans (the orang-utan won). In addition to this, we

have created pre-and post visit questionnaires which are helping us identify issues raised by visitors and locals.

The last milestone in our ecotourism programme is currently being developed, it is a fully equipped IT information centre where tourists and locals can come together to learn more about the orang-utans and the rainforest using up-to-date IT technologies.

So thank you Chester Zoo for helping us make all this possible!

To read more about our projects and keep up to date with conservation news from Indonesia, visit our website:

[www.orangutans-sos.org](http://www.orangutans-sos.org)

# Staff goWild!

## Kenya

PASA, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, held their 7th annual veterinary workshop in November. This workshop brings together veterinarians who work in primate rescue and rehabilitation centres in Africa. **Veterinary Officer Steve Unwin**, who has been PASA's veterinary coordinator since 2006, travelled to Kenya to chair the workshop, which was attended by veterinarians from all over the world. The workshop was held at Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Nanyuki, near the base of Mount Kenya.



## Brazil, Sri Lanka and Chile

**Richard Gibson, Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates** travelled to Brazil, Sri Lanka and Chile to facilitate Amphibian Conservation Needs Assessment workshops for Amphibian Ark. Richard also lectured and supervised at a week-long Amphibian Conservation and Husbandry course in Sri Lanka. Whilst in Chile, he visited the Darwin's frog project which Chester Zoo supports, which is researching the status, reproduction biology, population ecology, and disease of this species. For more information on the Amphibian Ark, please visit [www.amphibianark.org](http://www.amphibianark.org)



Spring 2010

**Animal Fun!**

# Kidz

See Inside...  
KIDS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

# ZOO!

**Quizzes  
To Enjoy**

# kidz ZOO!

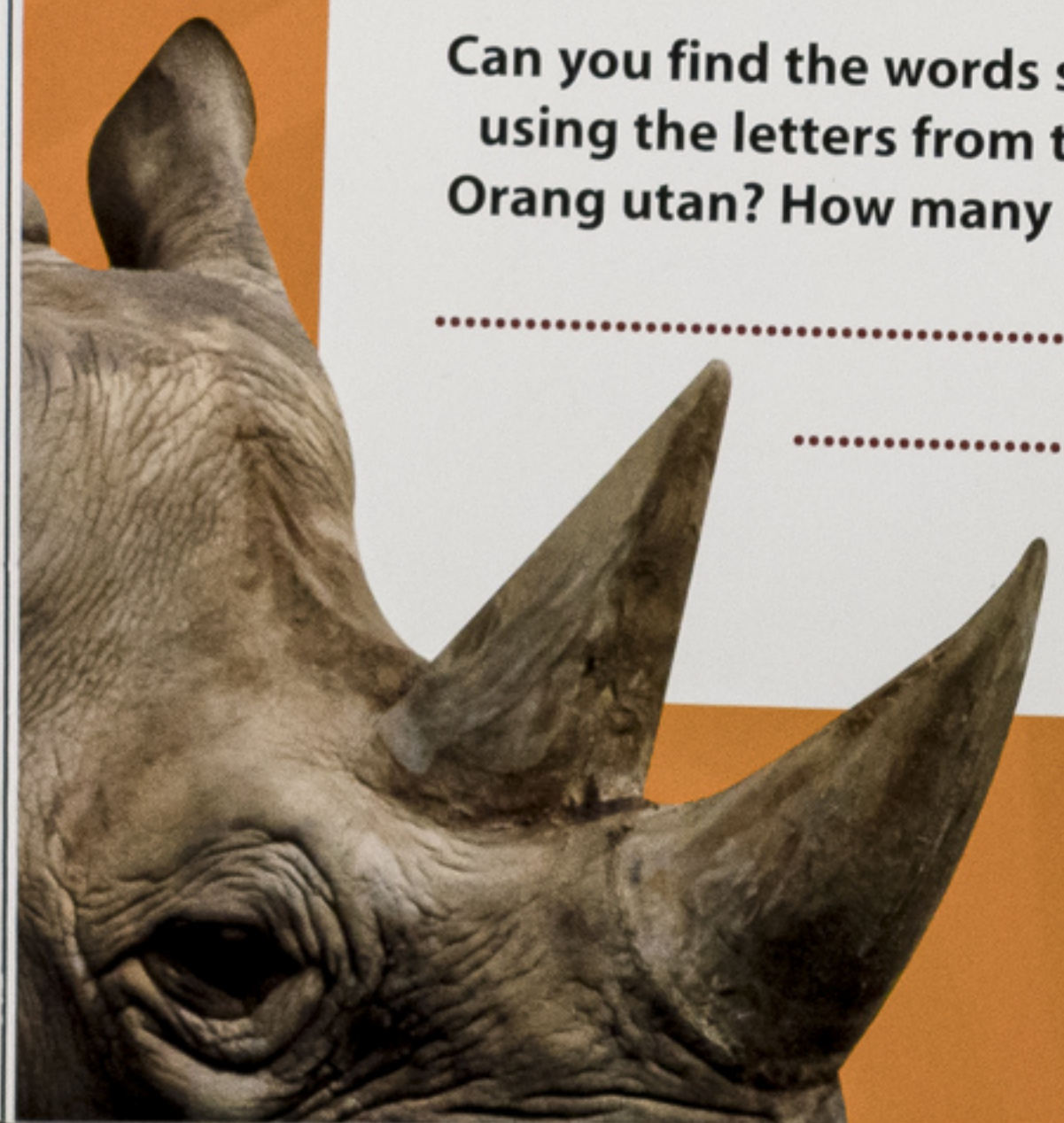
## Word Puzzle



# Pongo Pygmaeus

Can you find the words suggested by the pictures, using the letters from the scientific name of the Orang utan? How many more words can you find?

.....  
.....  
.....



B	O	R	N	E	O	F	S	E	L
S	W	A	I	S	A	Z	P	F	Y
B	U	V	R	M	T	S	R	S	A
B	P	M	R	I	T	U	M	H	F
A	S	C	A	X	I	A	Q	T	B
I	W	X	I	T	S	E	N	S	N
K	I	S	N	P	R	P	L	J	Y
R	N	Z	F	A	S	A	W	S	D
W	G	L	O	N	G	C	A	L	L
T	I	P	R	I	M	A	T	E	N
C	N	M	E	V	G	U	Y	W	E
W	G	A	S	Y	P	O	N	A	C
H	R	E	T	Y	Q	L	Z	S	D

Read about Orang-utans and find the highlighted words in the grid.

Orang-utans come from the islands of BORNEO and SUMATRA in the continent ASIA. An Orang-utan is a large APE, which is in the PRIMATE family. They travel by SWINGING through the CANOPY of the RAINFOREST, feeding on FRUIT and making a NEST to sleep in. One male controls a territory and keeps others away using a LONG CALL.

To be in with a chance of winning a £10 voucher to spend in the Zoo shops, send your entry together with contact details to:  
**Z magazine, Marketing Department,  
Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH  
by Tuesday May 4.**

Congratulations to our previous winner, Rebecca O'Sullivan of Shrewsbury.



## JUNIOR MEMBERS' PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2010

### TRACKS & SIGNS

**Saturday 20 March 2010**

This is undoubtedly one of our most popular events in the Juniors' calendar. This is your chance to experience the animals' view of Zoo visitors as you will be going inside some of the enclosures in search of footprints from which to make plaster casts.

March is the best time of year for this as it is normally wet and muddy but please bear this in mind when you dress in the morning. Hopefully you will have a souvenir of your day to take home with you.

*Eights and over can come along and enjoy the mess.*

*When we meet outside Oakfield Manor at 11.00am, returning there at 4.00pm.*

*You will need a picnic lunch, and it is important that you wear clean, very old clothes and squeaky clean wellies please.*

### SHUGBOROUGH HOME FARM

**Saturday 24 April 2010**

You will love this visit to a beautiful stately home in Staffordshire and will find that the Spring is a perfect time to visit their Home Farm to see the rare breeds and shire horses. Home Farm also has wonderful displays of cheese making and old-times bakery skills.

*Eights and over are invited to join us for a relaxing day.*

*We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return home for 5.00pm. Bring a picnic.*

### KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK

**Saturday 15 May 2010**

This a great favourite with our Junior Members! There should be lots of young animals to see if we visit Knowsley at this time of year, and hopefully we will have a guided tour around the park with a member of Knowsley's staff. It is a good opportunity for Juniors to compare the safari park style of managing animals to that of keeping them in a Zoo like Chester.

*Eights and over are welcome to join us, and we will leave the Zoo's Staff car Park at 10.00am and return at 5.00pm.*

### ZOO TOURS

**Saturday 26 June 2010**

NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE Juniors should come along to this event to find out a bit more about what is happening in the Zoo and you will be offered guided tours for the afternoon.

*Meeting at Oakfield House at 2.00pm and return to there for 4.30pm. Over 8's are invited to attend.*

### ANGLESEY SEA ZOO AND BUTTERFLY PALACE

**Saturday 10 July 2010**

NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE

This will be a busy but enjoyable day split between two very interesting venues on the Isle of Anglesey. We will visit the Sea Zoo in the morning and then travel on to the Pili Palace to see their great collection of butterflies in the afternoon.

*We will leave the Staff Entrance at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm.*

*Eights and over should bring a picnic and sunscreen.*

### HOW TO BE A GOOD ZOOKEEPER!

**Wednesday 21 July 2010**

This is a unique opportunity offered to Junior Members to spend a day working alongside a Zoo Keeper. The work can be tough and demanding so we strictly limit this event to those Juniors of 12 or over. We try to match Juniors to their favourite section, but places are limited so this cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive prepared to work hard, with clean wellies and an additional completely clean set of clothes to work in. Owing to the Zoo's biosecurity measures, it is important that the clothes you wear to work on the sections have not been in contact with any farm animals, or even your pets at home, since they were last washed.

*We will meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30am, and the day will finish for Juniors at 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Also please note that bookings for this event will not be taken before 9.00 am on Wednesday 7 July 2010, and will be strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.*

### SUMMER BARBECUE

**Thursday 5 August 2010**

Our summer barbecue has become a regular feature for the Juniors' diary as it has proved immensely popular. Perhaps this because it is our chance to be in the Zoo when there are no other visitor noises to distract you and the animals, so it is a different zoo experience.

We usually aim to have a speaker to chat to you or to engage in craft activities during the evening, but you can be sure to finding it relaxing.

*We would like to invite eights and over to join us for a 7.00pm start, when you should arrive at the Ark Restaurant (near the Tigers) via the Zoo's Staff Entrance on Caughall Road. Parents are asked to collect Juniors from the Ark restaurant at 9.45pm please.*

### THE JUNIOR MEMBERS SUMMER SCHOOL

**From 9 - 13 August 2010**

This is a full-time, 9.00am - 5.00pm, five day event aimed at Juniors aged 13+, offering a mix of classroom and outdoor learning, and having lots of fun! Subjects covered include Botany, Animal Records, Enclosure Design, Outreach Conservation, Native Species with Live Mammal Trapping, Animal Behaviour, Environmental Enrichment and Careers in Zoos and much more.

The cost for the week is £175 per student.

For further details, contact Penny Rudd on 01244 650215

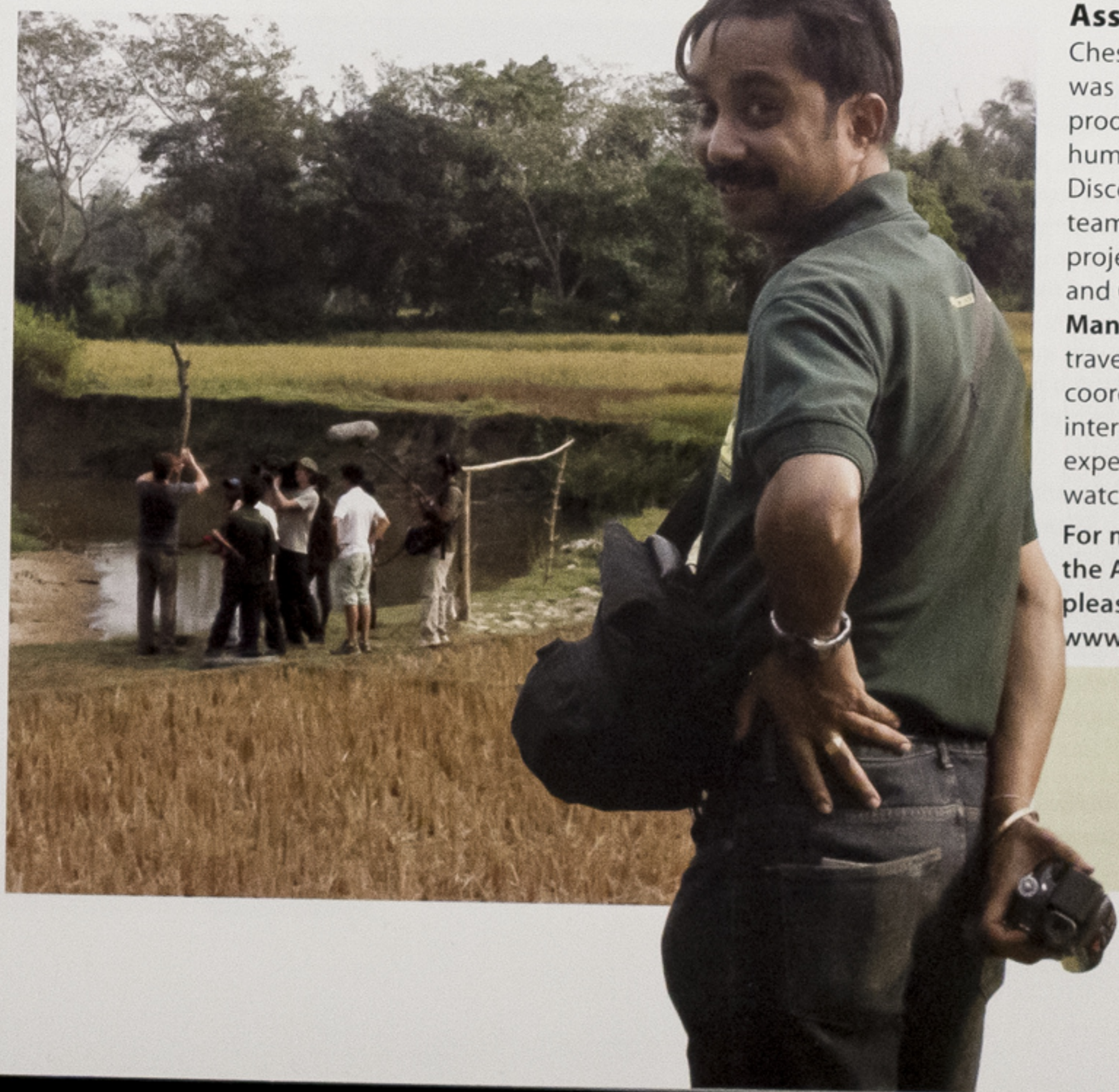
**Please Note:** Bookings must be made for all of the regular monthly Junior events. Please ring Penny Rudd at the Zoo on 01244 650215, not more than two weeks before the event you would like to attend. Places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues. You will be informed of any such changes in Z Magazine and not by individual letter, so please keep up-to-date by reading the Junior Pages in each issue. A charge will be made to cover the cost of those events which involve transport, entry fees, materials or the provision of food, and you will be advised of this at the time of booking.

# Staff go Wild!



## Australia

**Director General, Gordon McGregor Reid** and **Programme Officer Claudine Gibson** travelled to Adelaide, Australia for a meeting organised by Chester Zoo, Adelaide Zoo, the IUCN / Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This 3 day meeting was looking at the 'Challenges and opportunities in conserving the indigenous freshwater fishes of Australia'.



## Assam, India

Chester Zoo's Assam Haathi Project was recently included in the production of a documentary about human-elephant conflict for the Discovery Channel. The production team for the documentary visited the project in Assam, India, in November, and Chester Zoo **Conservation Manager Alexandra Zimmermann** travelled out to the project to help coordinate filming and to be interviewed. The documentary is expected to appear on TV in March... watch this space!

For more information on the Assam Haathi Project, please visit the website [www.assamhaathiproject.org](http://www.assamhaathiproject.org)



# Making a difference

© NASA



## Black Rhino Programme

Ever wondered what it would be like to be a Rhino Ranger in Kenya? Many people may think of this job as exciting, but most of the time, it is hard and dangerous work. Our ongoing support in the Chyulu Hills, Kenya helps with the employment of rangers to track and monitor rhinos, and support the general ongoing work of the programme. This year has been particularly busy for the rangers with a major drought in the region and rising threats of ivory and rhino horn poaching, and Chester Zoo provided further essential funding to support the rangers.

Earlier in 2009, we supported the translocation of three rhinos from Dvur Kralove Zoo to Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary in Tanzania. This translocation assisted towards the goal of establishing a breeding population of 20 rhinos in Mkomazi. At the end of 2009, we gave additional support to the sanctuary to reinforce the perimeter fence. This is an important part of the anti poaching component of the programme.

**FAST FACT:** 223 poachers were arrested and 702 snares were recovered by Chyulus rangers in 2009.

## News on Conservation from around the World

We take a look at the conservation news at home and away ...



Picture © S. Rowlands

### Bad

It never rains it pours ... this saying was certainly true in the UK at the end of 2009. Following the wet winter with many floods in various regions, a species which struggled was the European Otter. Due to rising river levels, baby otters get dragged out of their homes on the edge of the river and can often drown. A Somerset charity has been caring for the rescued otters, and hand rearing them until they are strong enough to be released back into the river.

### Good

With the constant news of species in decline and threatened with extinction, scientists were delighted with the recent news of a new species of bird found in Sabah, Borneo. The bird was discovered in the Danum Valley Conservation Area, an area of high diversity. The Spectacled Flowerpecker is a grey bird the size of a wren, and has not yet been given a scientific name.

## Emergency Funds

Put yourself in the shoes of the Maasai in Kenya for a moment. There's devastating droughts in your region. The people in your village are struggling to find water. Your livestock, the livelihood you rely so heavily upon to survive, has suffered huge losses. And you can no longer afford your children's school fees. This is the current situation in many areas of Kenya. Many herders have lost around 80% of their cattle, and it's not just livestock that have been affected; the wildlife - elephants, buffalo, wildebeest and zebra - have suffered massive losses. Chester Zoo provided much needed emergency funds to the Maasailand Preservation Trust who are helping communities in Kenya following the droughts.

## China Programme

We supported a new component of the China Programme, which aims to improve biodiversity conservation and management in the Gaoligongshan Mountain Range. This mountain range is one of the most biodiverse areas of China, important for pheasants, primates and Red Pandas. The project will reduce threats to the area by working with communities to increase awareness, build conservation capacity and develop community based incentives through generating alternative livelihoods. Support was also provided this month for a community conservation education project at Heizhugou Nature Reserve. This education will help to alleviate some of the pressure on the habitat which needs protection through encouraging the community to take part in the conservation of the region.

**FAST FACT:** Red Pandas have a modified wrist bone that acts as a sixth digit or thumb.





### Jaguar Programme

The striking Jaguar, once found across the whole of the Americas, is now found only in central and south America. Their current main threat is conflict with humans. This conflict occurs due to the predation of domestic livestock, and results in the cattle ranchers killing Jaguars. In order to help to overcome this conflict Chester Zoo continued support for the human-jaguar co-existence project in the ranches and villages of La Selva, Guatemala.

**FAST FACT:** Unlike many other cats, Jaguars are good swimmers and prey on species such as turtles.

### Grant Support

Other projects which we've supported during the last quarter include:

- Conservation Ecology of the Bengal Florican, Cambodia
- The Ground Hornbill research and conservation project, South Africa
- Budo Hornbill Conservation and Education Center, Thailand
- Conservation of the Grey-breasted Parakeet, Brazil
- Yellow Breasted Capuchin conservation project, Brazil
- Outreach to reduce livestock predation by endangered African Wild Dogs, Kenya
- Assisting the State Government in protecting the endangered Markhor, India
- Evaluation of foraging ranges of vultures and their exposure to chemical and other residues in scavenged food, South Africa
- The Makgadikgadi Brown Hyaena Project, Botswana
- Resolving conflict between humans and threatened carnivores around Ruaha National Park, Tanzania
- Geographical variation in socio-ecology of spider monkeys in Meso-America
- Assessment of an unprotected forest corridor for the dispersal of isolated Cross River gorilla and Gulf of Guinea chimpanzee populations, Cameroon
- Fish Ark Mexico Project
- Special Issue of Cat News – Jaguar National Action Plan, Brazil



Picture © Tom Hooper

### Mascarenes Programme

Many people dream of an island getaway in a tropical paradise where you can snorkel or scuba dive to your hearts content. But how enjoyable would this be if there were no corals reefs, fish, turtles and other species to see?

The endemic species of the tropical Rodrigues Lagoon in the Mascarene Islands are particularly vulnerable due to the small and isolated nature of the Island. In order to preserve this ecosystem, Shoals Rodrigues carry out long-term monitoring and conservation of the coral reefs and fisheries of the lagoon and we continued our support for their work recently.

In addition, this month we also provided funding support for two student projects:

- The role of prey availability in habitat use by the endangered Rodrigues Warbler
- Understanding the factors limiting the recovery of the endangered Pink Pigeon.

**FAST FACT:** The Mascarenes are inhabited by hundreds of endemic species.



### Native Species Programme

You never know what you might have living in your roof space... In 1997, 34 Lesser Horseshoe Bats were identified within an out-building at Bod Idris Hall Hotel in Wrexham. The site now holds a nationally important population of this vulnerable species with at least 228 bats present. Chester Zoo joined forces with Denbighshire County Council on an exciting new project at Bod Idris called 'Bats on Film'. We have purchased video cameras to film the bat colony, raising awareness of the bat conservation issue and enhancing the monitoring and research of the colony.

In addition this month, we also funded two other projects:

- A plant project entitled 'Ponds for Pillwort'
- 'Ecological Audit of Chester Zoo Estate' to determine the native and non-native species found on the wider zoo estate

### FAST FACT

*Ever wanted to be a bat volunteer? Contact your local Wildlife Trust to find out how to get involved in bat monitoring in your area.*

### Philippines Programme

The Philippines Programme has several project components which together support a variety of endemic species and habitats. Chester Zoo has supported ongoing projects on frugivorous monitor lizards, Philippine hornbills, plus conservation programmes on Cebu, Polillo and the West Visayan Islands. We also supported an additional project, which we have been involved in since 2003. The Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme is working to save the Critically Endangered Philippine Cockatoo. This successful project has seen up to a four fold increase in cockatoo numbers in some areas, and we continue to support the project so that these successful techniques can be implemented for other populations.

**FAST FACT:** The Philippine Cockatoo is now found in just 2% of its former range.

# Chester Zoo

## Natural Vision

The Natural Vision Project at Chester Zoo is a major component of the Zoo's mission to be a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide, and is dedicated to ensuring a long-term future for wildlife and wild places. Through discovery, learning, inspiration, excitement, fun and adventure – and via immense and immersive, state-of-the-art naturalistic exhibits – the Zoo will carefully reflect its outstanding, award-winning global field work in conservation, education, science and sustainable living. Via enjoyable, life enhancing, emotionally engaging and memorable experiences, Natural Vision will empower guests to help secure the future of our planet.



Figure 1: Strategic Master Plan Framework Plan



Working closely with Chester Zoo and its consultant team, Barton Willmore has submitted a part outline/part detailed (hybrid) planning application to Cheshire West and Chester Council in December 2009 which seeks to reinforce the Zoo's mission and comprises the following:

**Part Outline Application**  
As illustrated by the Strategic Master Plan Framework Plan at Figure 1 – The general redevelopment of the existing Zoological gardens to include realigned pedestrian routes, new and enhanced landscape structure, enhancement of the setting of the listed Grade II Oakfield House and former stable block, creation of themed zones with associated open paddock areas and exhibit buildings, and an expansion of the operational area of the Zoo. The expansion land will enable a new access road, car parking and Heart of Africa Biodome (Phase 1), plus future phased development to the south west of the existing site adjacent to the A41 and existing roundabout, to potentially include hotel development.

**Part Detailed Application**  
Accompanying the part outline is a detailed submission for the Phase 1 area. Phase 1 is effectively comprised of two parts, the Heart of Africa plot and the Entrance, Welcome and Orientation Zone. Given the size of the Phase 1 area (33 hectares) and the unique design and use of the Heart of Africa building, individual Design and Access Statements for the Heart of Africa Biodome proposals, and the Entrance, Welcome and Orientation Zones have been prepared. Figures 2 and 3 provides illustrations of Heart of Africa and the Entrance and Orientation Zone proposals.

Figure 2: Illustrative View of Welcome and Orientation Zones



## Detailed Phase One

Working closely with Proctor and Matthews, the part detailed phase 1 application comprises the following components:

- A new guest access off the A41;
- The Heart of Africa Biodome development including Animal Housing Areas, Keeper Facilities, Retail Catering Facilities, Visitor Facilities and Plant Areas;
- Heart of Africa Entrance Village;
- Wildlife @ Home exhibit;
- Hoofstock Island Service Area;
- Services Building;
- Improvement and enhancement of the Entrance, Welcome and Orientation Zones comprising:-
  - Provision of a remodelled existing and extended visitor car park;
  - New Entrance Building;
  - Landscape master planning of Entrance, Welcome & Orientation Zone; and
  - Creation of Entrance Plaza.
- Redevelopment of existing waste water treatment facility.

For further information on this project or to discuss similar opportunities, please contact Dan Mitchell, Planning Partner on 0113 2044 777.



Figure 3: Illustrative 3D View of New Biodome



## Sounds good for rhinos

**Chester Zoo has achieved a world-first by monitoring and recording the heartbeat of a rhinoceros with a stethoscope.**

By using the very latest in electronic technology, it is helping to protect one of the world's oldest and most endangered species.

The newly-launched Littmann stethoscope – from the diversified technology company 3M – is so sensitive that it even works through a rhino's thick protective hide.

The Zoo's veterinary team can not only listen clearly to a rhino's heartbeat and lung sounds for the first time, but, thanks to the stethoscopes' unique on-board Bluetooth technology, transfer the sounds wirelessly for digital storage and further analysis.

"We can now gather and build up crucial information about the rare Eastern black rhinos and share it with other wildlife professionals worldwide," explained the Zoo's resident vet James Chatterton.

"These rhinos have been around for about five million years but they've been reduced to a critically endangered species, with only around 700 remaining in the wild. It's paramount that we learn as much as we can to help protect their health and welfare."

The launch of the Littmann 3200 stethoscope couldn't have come at a better time for the two latest additions to the zoo's nine black rhinos in the park.

*Asani*, the first Eastern black rhino to be born there in 10 years, celebrated his first birthday in October. And he was joined by the birth of a female calf called *Bashira* in May.

As *Asani* and *Bashira* grow up and develop their hide – which on rhinos can be up to two inches thick – the zoo can continue to record their progress.

The Littmann 3200 electronic stethoscope, which has been singled out by Popular Science magazine as the 'Innovation of the Year', amplifies sounds by 24 times and reduces background noise by an average of 85 per cent.

It has been primarily developed for use by cardiologists, hospital specialists and GPs on human patients. It will help to minimise the number of 'false negative' results, where heart conditions aren't



## A mum with a difference is entering the New Year at Chester Zoo by achieving a world-first with her parenting skills.

**One of the zoo's Mountain Chickens (*Leptodactylus fallax*) – which is actually a huge frog – has taken on a new role as an adopted mum to a nest of abandoned tadpoles that 'arrived' at her door.**

The new mum's role came when Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (formerly Jersey Zoo) found that they had a foam nest of Mountain Chicken tadpoles which had been abandoned by their uncharacteristically non-maternal mother.

Despite the best efforts of the Herpetological staff at Durrell, the female would not feed the tadpoles and they became starved and weak. Fortunately for them, Chester Zoo had a week-old foam nest that was infertile and had failed to hatch. And so a plan was hatched to see if it would be possible to foster the unfortunate tadpoles. A long journey by boat and road was immediately arranged for the tadpoles.

Using a little cunning, staff at Chester Zoo were able to use their nest for the Jersey tadpoles and fooled their own Mountain Chicken frog into playing mum.

Richard Gibson, Curator of Lower Vertebrates and Invertebrates said: "Our attentive mother was still looking after her infertile nest so with some guile and cunning I broke the nest open, snuck inside the contents of the Durrell nest – foam, slime, dirt and tadpoles –

and retreated with fingers crossed.

"Amazingly, our Mountain Chicken was none the wiser and over the coming weeks we watched in awe as she nurtured the tiny tadpoles that weren't her own – feeding them with thousands of tiny eggs from her own body, sitting guard in the nest tirelessly week after week, and eventually rearing them successfully into miniature versions of herself. Now that's adoption on a level even Angelina Jolie and Madonna couldn't match."

Two larvae flourished and have now metamorphosed and left the nest. It is the first time that a Mountain Chicken has been 'duped' into looking after a clutch of unrelated tadpoles and could pave the way to help the species which is Critically Endangered in the wild.

"This is a great achievement as we had little hope that it would work. The maternal care shown by Mountain Chickens is very rare among amphibians and there must be some form of close communication between tadpoles and their mum that draws her to regularly feed them. However, we still don't know how it's mediated, whether it's chemical, mechanical or even acoustic," added Dr. Gerardo García, Head of Herpetology for Durrell.

The long-term survival of this species will increasingly depend on breeding strategies of this kind in zoos. Cross-fostering could help increase productivity for these frogs and ultimately help ensure their survival in the long term. This level of maternal care is rare among amphibians and the fostering is something that has never been achieved before.

Mountain Chickens are native to the islands of Montserrat and Dominica where their numbers have been devastated by the fungal disease chytridiomycosis. It also used to be hunted for food, hence its unusual name. Though Critically Endangered, the giant frog is the focus of an international recovery programme incorporating captive breeding and research, field studies and eventually, it is hoped, a reintroduction programme to an area of Montserrat not yet affected by the fungal disease.

detected, and also 'false positives' where patients are unnecessarily referred to a consultant.

Peter Robinson, 3M senior technical services specialist, commented: "There's been considerable interest in this new model from medical professionals and we're delighted that its benefits can be transposed to the equally challenging fields of veterinary and zoological medicine."

And it's not only the rhinos that will be benefiting at the Zoo. As James Chatterton added: "If it works that well on a rhino, just imagine how well we can now monitor other animals in our care."



5 minutes with...

# Mark Pilgrim

Director of Conservation and Education

### What is new in the collection at the moment?

Two very exciting species are coming into the collection at the zoo this year.

The first fabulous, 5ft long Giant Otter is in quarantine in the old orang-utan house. The second otter will be with us in April and we aim to have both on show to visitors by Easter. This is a really exciting development for us and other zoos that have this species say it has proved to be one of their most popular. Giant Otters certainly look unusual and they are very active and playful.

However, the arrival of the Giant Otters means we will be saying goodbye to our Californian sea lions. The current sea lions enclosure is more suited to Giant Otters and we will be moving the sea lions to zoos in Europe as part of the European breeding programme. The sea lion area will undergo some modifications to contain the otters and so that it resembles a South American river bank.

It will certainly be Year of the Giants for us with the arrival of Giant Anteaters. A pair will arrive in late Spring/early Summer and be housed on the paddock next to the Vicunas. When they are active this breeding pair will be very impressive and will complement the other species on the paddock.

### Are there any big projects planned for 2010?

The big project for 2010 will be the development of the African Painted Dogs exhibit. The Przewalski's horses will be leaving the collection but we will be creating a new, fully integrated exhibit with links to our field programmes in Tanzania. We will also be incorporating an African market and cafe.

Initially we expect to have a group of four, same-sex dogs that will be a fantastic new exhibit. African Painted dogs are endangered and they really are a very special species, they are very attractive and have an unusual social structure compared to other dogs.

### What else is happening around the zoo?

*Marmot Mania* has become *Mongoose Mania* and the system of tunnels to the viewing bubbles has been changed so children come out the same way they went in. Hopefully this will reduce the number of lost children and stressed parents in this area!

There has been a fair bit of demolishing and closing down of our old and out of date enclosures around the zoo this year, which I suspect may have raised a few eyebrows amongst our regular visitors and members. Animal welfare will always be one of our highest priorities and we were no longer happy that the old Children's Farm buildings and the Ronald Pryor, Arcade and Round Aviaries were providing the animals in these enclosures with the very high standard of accommodation we now expect to be able to provide for all our stock. Many of the bird species in these aviaries were moved to the new off-show breeding facilities that have been constructed behind the Spirit of the Jaguar building. For some species, this will be their permanent home. For others, we will be looking to move them back onto public display when we build new exhibits in the next couple of years.

There is a similar story behind the closing down of many of the old reptile enclosures. The Radiated tortoises have a new enclosure, the Galapagos tortoises will have far more space and there will be three new purpose built enclosures at the far end of the Tropical Realm. Although there will be a reduction in the number of species on exhibit, they will be of much higher quality for both our animals and visitors.

Some additional work on the tiger enclosure has also been completed and we have created some new space to enable us to work more closely with the tigers, particularly focussing on crate training. This should make the movement of the tigers easier in the future.

We also have plans to improve the surface of the elephant paddock as the sand has pretty much washed away. This will be a big job as

it will involve moving great amounts of earth and there will be some disruption. We are working on timescales, but we will ultimately be creating a set of terraces to help the elephants get about the paddock. This will mean that the elephants will not have access to the front on show paddock for a few weeks between Easter and the summer holidays.

### Looking forward, what else is planned for the collection?

As you may know, sadly we had to euthanize our Greater One-horned rhino *Patna* last year. In late spring, his companion *Batschii* will move to Madrid to make way for a new Greater One-horned female rhino *Tanaya* to come to us from San Diego. A new male *Baabu* will also be joining us from Edinburgh Zoo. This is a big step forward for us as, with these new blood lines, we will have one of the most important breeding pair of Greater One-horned rhinos in Europe.

Male lion *Asoka* has left and will be replaced by *Iblis* from Belgium. This move is being made in line with the studbook recommendations and he will be a new mate for *Asha*.

The Pied Tamarins were moved off show due to the renovation work to their enclosure and the good news is that they have started mating again. Given how well they are doing they will remain off-show and we will bring in another charismatic calitrichid species to replace them.

### Please can you tell us about any new commercial developments in the zoo?

One of the highlights may be the development of a tree ropes canopy adventure. This may be in the Sunken Garden area of the zoo and the statue of Noah and the Four Winds and all the trees will stay. We are hoping this project will be completed and open for the July school holidays

In time for Easter the Monkey Island kiosk will be replaced with new unit with an improved 'grab and go' product line.

Also potential plans in the pipeline are a new catering offer in the newly created *Mongoose Mania* area and a retail drink and ice offer at the main gates. However these are in concept form only at the moment so we will continue to update you as our plans develop

We also have a number of special events planned for 2010.

Check [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org) for updates.

20 & 21 March	<b>Walking Weekend</b>
27 March	<b>Sensory Awareness Day</b>
1-5 April	<b>Easter Bunny Event</b>
1 May	<b>Dawn Chorus Walks</b>
13-16 May	<b>Gardeners Question Time</b>
18 May	<b>Midsummer Cycle</b>
6-9 July	<b>Barnardos Toddle</b>
9 July	<b>Lazy Summer Evening</b>
16 July	<b>Lazy Summer Evening</b>
23 July	<b>Lazy Summer Evening</b>
30 July	<b>Sensory Awareness Day</b>
	<b>Lazy Summer Evening</b>
11 & 12 September	<b>Conservation 5k Run</b>
17 September	<b>Autumn Cycle</b>
18 September	<b>Sensory Awareness Day</b>
25 & 26 September	<b>Walking Weekend</b>
23-31 October	<b>Phobias Week</b>

We are expecting 2010 to be another challenging year in the zoo and from previous experience we have seen that years following recessions are difficult and we will be changing and refreshing certain areas during the next 12 months. That said, what we will be doing is replacing these areas with a number of exciting new developments. I'll be updating members and adopters through the pages of Z and would like to thank you for your continued and vital support.

## Hard work creates new homes for sand martins

When the nest site of a colony of sand martins began to collapse at Budworth Mere near Northwich in 2008 it could have meant disaster for the birds. These smaller relatives of the swallow migrate to the African Sahel region, south of the Sahara, in September every year; a distance of around 3000 miles! Most sand martins return to the area of their birth in March or April to breed. Damage to the nesting site at Budworth threatened a colony of around 200 pairs, so urgent action was required.

Chester Zoo stepped in to help by providing funding for construction of an artificial nest bank for the martins. The idea came from members of the Friends of Anderton and Marbury (FoAM), and the hard work of FoAM volunteers has made the project into reality at Haydn's Pool in Anderton Nature Park. Work started in mid January 2009, in the ice and snow. Hardy volunteers and rangers shifted 22 tonnes of stone, 17 tonnes of sand, and more than 40 tonnes of soil; and used 35 bags of cement. Poor weather and soft ground meant very little work could be done by tractor so it was mostly shovels, wheel barrows, and elbow grease! Thanks to the volunteers' mammoth effort the bank was finished in time for the martin's arrival in mid March.

Artificial banks like this have been successful at several other places in the UK such as Rutland Water. Haydn's Pool is ideal for sand martins as it is close to the original nest site, has open water over which the birds can feed, and reed beds where they can roost. As you can see the beginnings of nest holes have been provided in the outer sand and cement wall. It is hoped the martins will be able to excavate burrows themselves in the softer sand mixture behind, as they do at natural nest sites.

A few pairs of sand martins managed to nest at the original Budworth site in 2009, and FoAM members are very pleased to report that some birds were seen inspecting the new bank in May and June last year, though none moved in to nest there. Our fingers are all crossed for this year!



## Chester city centre is welcoming a heavyweight new arrival ...

Taking centre stage at a proposed site near Barclays Bank will be a bronze elephant calf, donated to the city by Chester Zoo.

The 1m tall elephant elephant – created by Hampshire-based sculptress Annette Yarrow – mirrors the bronze elephant calf that resides near the main entrance of the 110-acre zoo.

The female calf was gifted by the Zoo to the city to demonstrate the links between the award-winning attraction and Chester itself.

Alasdair McNee, Corporate Director for Chester Zoo, said: "The bronze elephant at our main entrance has been a huge draw for visitors young and old and is a welcoming focal point in the Zoo, a place for photographs to be taken and memories to be created.

"We wanted to bring some of that experience to the city centre and to demonstrate the strong links between Chester and its famous zoo.

"Visitors to the city will be able to enjoy the same experience and hopefully it will entice them to come and explore and experience the world-class zoo and conservation organisation on Chester's doorstep.

"Chester Zoo is a mix of conservation breeding but also a family day out and the elephant calf is symbolic of this."

The Zoo has been working closely with Chester Renaissance, which is looking after the installation and interpretation for the city's new attraction. The two organisations are also working together on the city's Rhino Mania project.

Rita Waters, Chief Executive of Chester Renaissance, said: "This sculpture will be a wonderful addition to the city. There is a natural and powerful link between the city and the Zoo and I am delighted that this will be the forerunner to creating this link, ahead of the exciting Rhino Mania installation this summer."

Clr Richard Short, the Council's executive member for recreation and culture is delighted with this addition to the city.

He said: "Having a beautiful and imposing sculpture in the city will create a point of interest for our many visitors and become another draw to the city."

Renowned sculptress Annette, who also crafted the Zoo's bronze elephant, has drawn on her experience of growing up in India to create the new addition. Her painstaking work-in-progress should be in place in the early part of 2010.

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## Swim like a penguin or lift like a gorilla!

Well you can try, now that all members of Chester Zoo can get a specially reduced membership at Total Fitness, the top gym and leisure group.

All you have to do to take advantage of this great offer of **£295 a year or only £35 a month** – saving you up to **£100** is visit the Total Fitness website ([www.totalfitness.co.uk](http://www.totalfitness.co.uk)) and enter CZMAG into the promocode, on the join online page. With 24 state-of-the-art clubs in the UK and Ireland, offering multiple pool areas, running tracks, unrivalled cardiovascular and resistance equipment, exercise studios, family zones and cafes, Total Fitness will have you fitter than a gazelle in no time.

Visit [www.totalfitness.co.uk](http://www.totalfitness.co.uk) now enter CZMAG and get started with your membership

**TOTAL FITNESS**  
Leisure Clubs

# fundRAISING

## Have your say and make your vote count!

In this special orang-utan edition of Z magazine we thought we would remind you that you can now make a donation to our orang-utan conservation work the next time you visit the Zoo, and vote to have your say on where your donation is spent. We have introduced a fun machine by the *Realm of the Red Ape* exhibit which allows you to choose from five options. These options contribute towards our orang-utan conservation work both here and internationally. In exchange for showing your support for our work, you will receive a badge as a thank you.

Why not try out the machine next time you are in the zoo and check out which are the most popular options!

We will also soon be introducing another voting machine near the Ark Restaurant so look out for it.

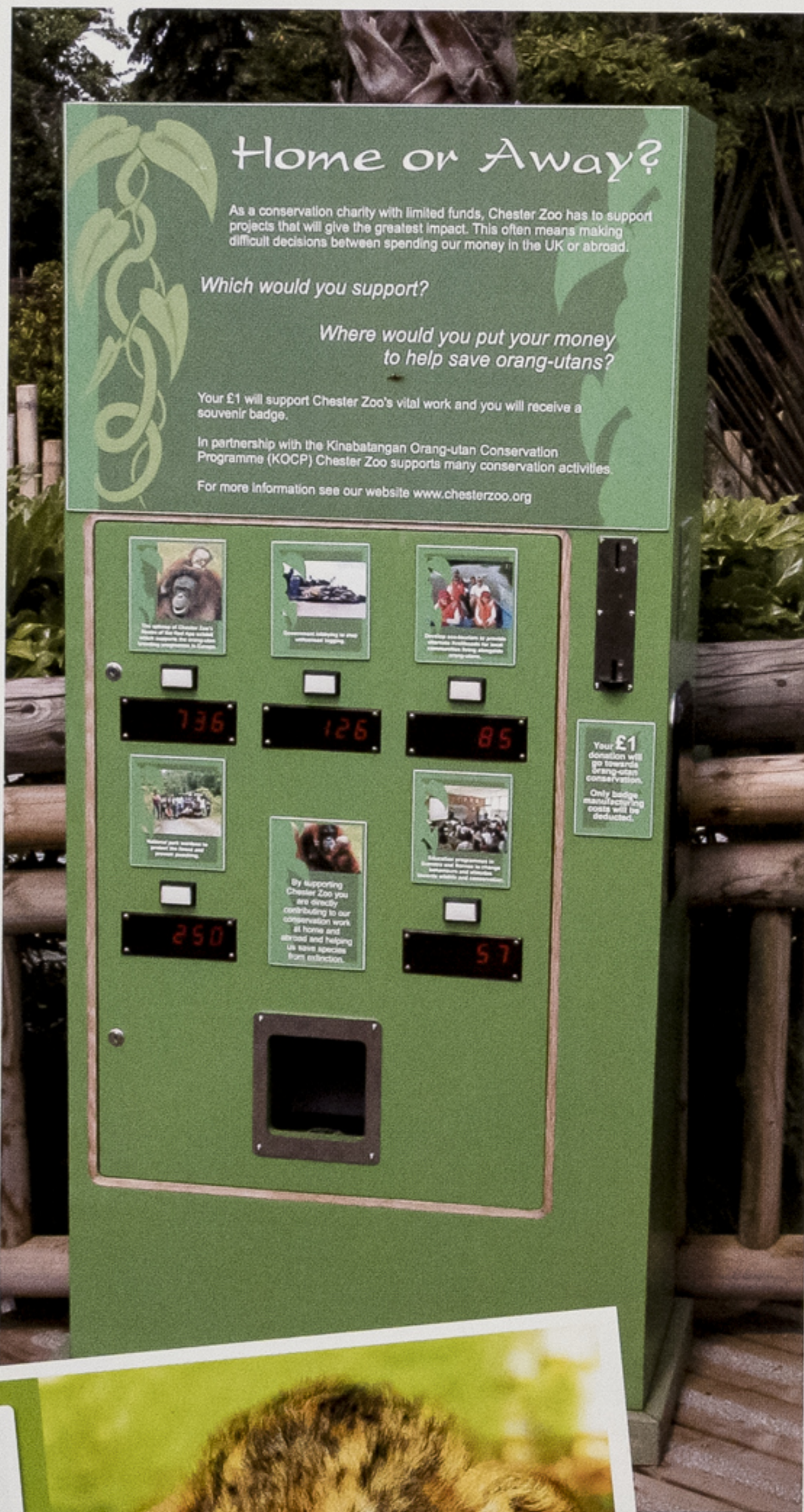
*Pictured right: Voting donation machine on the exit of Realm of the Red Ape*

## Your legacy, their future

In this edition you should have received our new leaflet giving further information on how you can make a gift in your Will to Chester Zoo. Remembering Chester Zoo can help us to continue our work so that future generations can have the same wonderful experiences and be inspired by Chester Zoo and its animals.

Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do to give you the reassurance that your loved ones and the causes you hold most close to your heart will continue to be provided for.

If you would like further information on Will-making and how to leave a donation to the zoo then please see the leaflet enclosed with this magazine or call 01244 650292. Anything you discuss with us will be treated as confidential.



### Confidential Gift Form

Please complete if you have made a Will and have mentioned Chester Zoo in it.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick if you are a Member  Adopter  100 Club Member   
 Please tick if you would like us to contact you so you may speak with someone in confidence about leaving a legacy to Chester Zoo

This is to confirm I have made provision in my Will for the North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo) of Upton by Chester, Chester, CH2 1LH (registered charity number 306077)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### My gift is in the form of (optional information):

- All of my estate
- A percentage of my estate: I currently intend to leave \_\_\_\_\_ %
- A cash gift of a fixed amount
- I would like donations to be made to Chester Zoo in lieu of flowers at my funeral (please send me a card to keep with my Will so this request is fulfilled)

Data Protection Act 1998: We would like to be able to contact you by post, phone or email to update you on our latest offers, events and news from Chester Zoo. If you do not want us to contact you, please tick this box

Please detach this form and send to: Lifetime Supporters, Development Office, FREEPOST CS414, Chester Zoo, Upton By Chester, CH2 1YZ

### Why do I need to make a Will?

Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do to give you the reassurance that your loved ones and the causes you hold most close to your heart will continue to be provided for.

Having a valid Will is the only way to be sure that your wishes will be carried out when you pass away. Without a Will your belongings could even end up in the hands of the government. It doesn't have to be complicated or expensive and Chester Zoo recommends you seek professional advice from a solicitor who can guide you through the process. If you already have a Will, it is simple to add a further request (known as a codicil) to now include a gift for Chester Zoo. Again, this can be done by a solicitor.



### Your support is appreciated

If you have decided to include a gift in your Will for Chester Zoo, thank you so much for your generosity. Telling us about your gift by completing and returning the gift form will help us to feel confident that there is a future for Chester Zoo and the animals in our care. Please rest assured that any information you provide to us about your Will or the gift you have included will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. In recognition of your commitment and support you will receive a special Lifetime Supporter's certificate and a personal guided tour of the Zoo.

If you have any further questions, or would like to speak to someone in confidence then please call 01244 650292.



## YOUR LEGACY THEIR FUTURE



## Learning with Chester Zoo Safari Ranger

**Elephants, rhinos and all other creatures great and small are being brought to life in the classroom thanks to a pioneering project run by Chester Zoo.**

Chester Zoo's new Safari Ranger service is up and running. Safari Ranger, Becca Biddle began visiting local schools in January delivering classroom sessions on a wide variety of topics.

The project has been running for 3 weeks and already about 400 pupils ranging in ages from 4 – 16 have been learning about endangered animals, the importance of conservation and how each and everyone of us can help to make a difference.

Exciting biofacts including elephant tusks, rhino horns, macaw feathers, penguin eggs, four metre snake skins and much more bring the subject to life in the classroom.

Pupils have also been getting up close and personal with some of the Discovery and Learning Division's education animals; Colin the Giant Madagascan Hissing Cockroach, Stephanie the Spiny Stick Insect, and Hubble the corn snake!

Over the last 20 years the role of zoos as education providers has grown in prominence. Modern zoos now see themselves as cultural institutions with a moral mission to educate and increasingly serve as a point of contact between urban communities and the natural world.

The project will run for a year in the local area and is free to schools. Chester Zoo currently teaches 20,000 children per year on site with a further 80,000 visiting as part of an educational trip. It is hoped the project will be reach another 2,400 children.

**The Safari Ranger project is supported by Urenco UK, the Philip Barker Charity, Tesco Charity Trust and Sir Julian Hodge Charitable Trust.**

For more information please contact Becca in the Discovery and Learning department at Chester Zoo by phone on 01244 389 738 or email at [b.biddle@chesterzoo.org](mailto:b.biddle@chesterzoo.org)

CHESTER ZOO

## 100 Club

The winners of the prize draws held recently were:

### October 2009

Kathleen Peaker, Chester	£100
Gwyn Griffiths, Crewe	£100
Elizabeth Roberts, Mickle Trafford	£50
Glynis Wilson, Duckinfield	£50
Elizabeth Trent, Wallasey	£50

### November 2009

Valerie Stratford-Parson, Isle of Man	£100
Gwilym Denson, Skelmersdale	£100
Philip Robinson, Chester	£50
Sharon Dodd, Chester	£50
Andrew Davies, Wem	£50
Stephanie Naylor, Connah's Quay	£50

### December 2009

Elanor Fern, Chester	£1,000
Ray Morrison, Chester	£100
Julie Grant, Bebington	£50
Margaret Wake, Tarporley	£50
W. Beavan, Buckley	£50

Membership of the 100 Club is still invited. All prize winners will be notified by post and will be listed in the next edition of Z. Please inform us as soon as possible if you change address. If you wish to participate, please contact the Development Office on 01244 650 292.

# Talking Conservation! 2010

Our Members' Talks Programme brings you up close and personal with what goes on behind the scenes at the Zoo, our plans for the future and, of course, our conservation work in the UK and overseas.

Our Spring Programme is particularly up close and personal from *Natural Vision*, the Zoo's exciting expansion project; to *Count Me In*, Cheshire's wildlife recorder training project; to an evening with our vets.

Members' talks are more than just talks; they are your opportunity to ask questions from the experts. So, why not join us and bring along your friends too (see below for further information and booking details).

**Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 7.30pm**

## **Natural Vision – Chester Zoo's Future Development** Simon Mann – Development Director

In the last few years the Society has worked with a variety of agencies to develop a new Masterplan for the Zoo, entitled *Natural Vision*. Chester Zoo is internationally recognised as a leading centre for animal conservation, education and science. It is already the UK's premier wildlife attraction, welcoming well over 1 million visitors a year.

*Natural Vision* aims to evolve the Zoo from a national success story into a truly world class showcase for the abundant yet often threatened wildlife and fantastic, but fragile, habitats of earth. It will be a beacon of excellence here in the North West of England – creating an internationally renowned centre of the highest quality, providing top class employment, education and economic benefits. At the same time, the *Natural Vision* development will inspire millions to appreciate and treasure the rich and remarkable biodiversity of our planet.

This talk will include an outline of the plans for new visitor and education facilities, plus give a detailed preview of the 'Heart of Africa' biodome – the centrepiece of Phase 1 of the project, scheduled for completion in 2014.

**Simon Mann** initially studied as an architect before completing a degree in construction management. After qualifying he worked for a number of regional and national building contractors as a design and build manager on projects across the UK.

In 1997 Simon moved to project management consultancy, initially working for a specialist London based practice on a series of high profile projects including the BBC Broadcasting House re-development in Central London.

In 2003 he joined the largest UK PM consultancy and as a Director helped to develop the regional business within the North West.

Simon first worked for the Society as Interim Development Director for *Natural Vision* in 2008 before taking up the permanent role in March 2009

**Wednesday 14th April 2010 at 7.30pm**

## **Zoo Vets Exposed!** Steve Unwin and Members of the Chester Zoo Vet Team

The inside story on how our Vet Team looks after the health of our animals. This talk will complement the coming exhibition in the Joseph Banks Room focussing on the proactive health and preventative care treatments used in the Zoo. Some aspects will be familiar to viewers of Channel 5's *Zoo Days* but there will be new, fascinating insights for you. It's also a great opportunity to speak directly to members of our Vet Team.

**Steve Unwin** has been one of our vets at Chester Zoo for six years. Before this he worked in Thailand, Africa and Australia.

**Wednesday 19th May 2010 at 7.30pm**

## **Wildlife Recording at Chester Zoo and in Cheshire** Sarah Bird and Karen Lawson

*Count Me In!*, run by Chester Zoo and rECOrd (from funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Esmée Fairburn Foundation), has now been running for a year and is a project aimed at creating Cheshire's 'Wildlife Recorders of the Future'. This talk will look at how wildlife recording is achieved on the Zoo site, including the work done by *Count Me In!*, and will help you learn to discover plants and wildlife in your area. Sarah and Karen will relate what has been found in the surveys and the evening will hopefully include live creatures found in the previous night's moth trap.

**Sarah Bird** is Chester Zoo's Biodiversity Officer and **Karen Lawson** is the Project Coordinator for *Count Me In!*

Members' Talks are held in the Geraldine Russell Lecture Theatre (near the Zoo's Main Entrance off the A41) and are free to members (please bring your membership card and welcome letter). Members of the public and guests are welcome (£3.50 for non-members). Our Lecture Theatre seats up to 170. Post-talk refreshments give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with speakers and fellow members. At selected talks, items from our projects overseas may be available.

Please support our Members' Talks which are provided to keep you abreast of the Zoo and its conservation work which your membership supports.

Interested in attending? Please call Kate in Education on 01244 389 444 or e-mail [k.branksin@chesterzoo.org](mailto:k.branksin@chesterzoo.org) to book.



## Rhino Maniacs limited edition print

On 12 September 2010, a team of Chester Zoo staff will begin their ascent up the 19,340 feet of the world's largest free-standing mountain – Mount Kilimanjaro – in aid of Black Rhino conservation.

The team, dubbed the Rhino Maniacs, are doing the challenge in their own time, including all the training and fundraising, to help raise awareness and money for Chester Zoo's Black Rhino conservation programme.

The programme focuses on the Eastern Black Rhino, a sub-species particularly badly affected by poaching. There are only around 700 Eastern Black Rhinos left in the wild and they are very much dependent upon conservation programmes to ensure their survival. The work that Chester Zoo does both here in the UK and out in the wild is

vital in ensuring the survival of this charismatic species.

Creative Rhino Maniac Dave Brunger has painted a special Limited Edition print of Chester Zoo's youngest Black Rhino Bashira, born in May 2009, and Mum Ema-Elsa.

This signed Limited Edition print (only 250) will be available in April but you can pre-order one now via the Rhino Maniacs website.

*The prints, which are approx 255mm x 380mm, are priced at just £25 (inc P&P) and all profits raised will support Chester Zoo's Black Rhino conservation work both here in the UK and abroad.*

**For more information about the Rhino Maniacs Kilimanjaro challenge, or to pre-order your Limited Edition print, please visit [www.rhinomaniacs.org.uk](http://www.rhinomaniacs.org.uk)**

### Chokolit's first Biting Back Bar

was launched at Chester Zoo in May 2008.

The dark chocolate bar with a hint of orange, aims to highlight to consumers the threats faced by Orang-utans in the wild due to unsustainable palm oil production. Part of the funds from the sale of the bar help to support Chester Zoo's *Realm of the Red Ape Field Programme* and they are available to purchase onsite at the zoo. Creator of the Biting Back Bar and teenage entrepreneur, **Louis Barnett**, said

**"At 17, I'm old enough to understand the reality of this issue and the impact it could have on the future. But I'm also young enough to act now and help shape the world I want to be living in."**

Since the launch in 2008, the Orang-utan Biting Back Bar has raised hundreds of pounds for the Zoo's RORA programme and due to its success Louis has gone on to create another eight Biting Back Bars supporting various wildlife conservation projects around the globe.

More information can be found at [www.chokolit.co.uk](http://www.chokolit.co.uk)



## Climate change

Zoos world-wide have a responsibility to do their bit to combat climate change is the message coming out of Chester Zoo ahead of a special conference.

With 600 million people visiting zoos around the world each year, the potential to influence, educate and help make a difference should not be ignored, delegates at Chester Zoo's first Climate Change event will be told.

Hosted by Chester Zoo's Director General Prof Gordon McGregor Reid and Bristol Zoo Director, Dr Jo Gipps, the conference will pull together a panel of experts from across the region.

Decision makers from local and regional authorities will be invited to the 'Question Time' style event.

Chester Zoo's Head of Discovery and Learning, Stephen McKeown, warned that the issue of climate change should be ignored at peril.

"There is an urgency around climate and change and we need to raise awareness of that fact at local, regional and national levels.

"We have all heard the doom and gloom stories but what we need to do is to look at positive ways of making a difference and to see what each and every one of us can do to help.

"The meeting will have a call to action for attendees but zoos also have to take responsibility; globally they have an annual audience of 600 million people and are in an ideal position to explain that extinction is forever."

The event is being sponsored by Chester-based solicitors Hill Dickinson.

Robin Jones, Head of Hill Dickinson's Chester office, said:

"We are very pleased to be involved in the Climate Change Event and are happy to provide sponsorship to help to support the Zoo in its ambitions to reduce climate change and its impact upon the environment."

The meeting will be held in the zoo's Lecture Hall on March 18 from 6pm and is free. To book your place contact Kate Brankin on 01244 389444.

Hill Dickinson takes environmental responsibility very seriously and we believe that a demonstrable and continually evolving environmental policy is an essential part of our business. We currently have more than 50 environmental initiatives in place including energy conservation plans, recycling of office waste, a 'cycle to work' benefits scheme and minimising business travel through the use of integral teleconferencing and video conferencing facilities. Hill Dickinson is a founder member of the Managing Partners' Forum Sustainability Project. We work alongside other law firms to provide support to small companies looking to improve their environmental performance. We also participate in the Prince of Wales Environmental Initiative which brings together UK firms with a commitment to becoming more environmentally friendly.

**HILL DICKINSON**  
LAWYERS

# Events at Chester Zoo

**\*Sunday 14th March, 2010**

## **Mother's Day**

Enjoy Chester Zoo's award winning grounds with a warming lunch served in Oakfield Manor at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm

£24.95 per adult £17.50 per child (3 - 11 years)

Price includes admission from 10.00am

**Friday 18th June, 2010**

## **Elephant and Spirit of the Jaguar Evening Safari and BBQ**

When the zoo is closed to the general public we invite you to enjoy a guided tour through our award winning grounds to visit our elephants and jaguars where guests are able to chat with the relevant keeper.

The evening concludes with a delicious BBQ served on the Oakfield Manor lawn and terrace.

£32.50 per person

Evening commences at 6.00pm

approximate finish 10.00pm

**\*Sunday 20th June, 2010**

## **Father's Day Lunch**

Treat Dad to a fun day in the zoo with a three course lunch served in Oakfield Manor at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm

Pre lunch drinks can be enjoyed in the Acorn Bar.

£24.95 per adult £17.50 (3 - 11 years)

Price includes admission from 10.00am

**\*Thursday 22nd July, 2010**

## **Afternoon Tea, Garden Tour with a visit to the Butterfly Journey**

Admission into Chester Zoo from 4.00pm with afternoon tea served from 5.00pm on Oakfield Manor terrace. Enjoy a stroll through our award winning gardens in the company of our knowledgeable gardeners and a visit to our beautiful Butterfly Journey. The evening concludes at 7.30pm approximately.

£19.50 per person

**\*Saturday 16th October**

## **A Roaring Event**

One of the keepers featured in *Zoo Days*, Alan Woodward, Team Leader of Carnivores, to give an interesting and informative talk on the various animals in his team's care.

£19.50 per person

Price includes admission into Chester Zoo from 2.30pm with tea and coffee served at 5.00pm in Oakfield Manor.

Alan's interesting talk is followed by a hot supper with the evening concluding at approximately 7.30pm

**\*Saturday 13th November, 2010**

## **Bats by Torchlight**

Back by popular demand. Admission into zoo from 2.30pm with a hot pot supper served in Oakfield Manor at 5.00pm. Guests are escorted (torches essential) to the Twilight Zone where our keeper is on hand to explain about our many fascinating three species of bats including the Livingstone Bats with their wings extending over one metre!

£16.95 per person

**December, 2010**

## **\*Festive three course lunch**

Served in Oakfield Manor from Wednesday 1st December up to and including Friday 24th December.

£25.95 per adult £17.25 (3 - 11 years)

Admission into Chester Zoo is also included

**Friday 17th December, 2010**

## **Christmas Dinner and Disco**

Enjoy a festive three course dinner with dancing until midnight.

Please note that private evenings can be arranged with a minimum number of 60 guests required.

£36.50 per person

**Friday 31st December, 2010**

**Saturday 1st January, 2011**

**Sunday 2nd January, 2011**

## **\*New Year Lunch Special**

Why not enjoy a winter walk round Chester Zoo with admission from 10.00am included.

A warming two course lunch is served at either 12.00pm or 3.00pm within Oakfield Manor.

£22.25 per adult £14.95 (3 - 11 years)

*\*10% members discount*

Pre-booking and pre-payment essential  
For further details please contact the Events Office on 01244 650209 or email: [events@chesterzoo.org](mailto:events@chesterzoo.org)



**FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL**  
(NORTH WEST GROUP)

Please note that FFI evenings are a unique mix of 'entertainment' and learning focussed on conservation. They are informal, informative and fun, and are open to everyone, so please do feel free to come along.

**Friday 26 March 2010**

## **MADAGASCAR - AN ISLAND ON THE BRINK with Tony Ord**

Tony Ord is a wonderful naturalist and photographer, who has entranced us with his visits to the ends of the world before, but his latest visit to Madagascar provided such food for thought that we are delighted that he will be sharing with us some of these recent experiences of the threats facing the wildlife of Madagascar and the solutions we can all be part of. His photographs will provide an insight of the wealth of interesting and varied wildlife, endemic to this island and the impact the expanding population and global demands are having on its future.

**Friday 23 April 2010**

## **POLES APART with Michael Leach**

Follow the flight-path of the Arctic Tern between the two extreme environments of the Arctic and Antarctic, and discover current revealing news on the fragile domains of polar bears, king penguins, snowy owls, elephant seals and reindeer from both ends of the earth. Michael Leach is a world renowned wildlife photographer so be prepared to be wowed! having on its future.

**Friday 1 October 2010**

## **LAST CHANCE TO SEE with Mark Carwardine**

Following on from his recent vastly popular BBC series with Stephen Fry, when they re-visited some of the places Mark Carwardine originally visited with Douglas Adams at the time the famous first book was written, come and hear about the highlights of those trips from the author himself. Always an absorbing and fascinating speaker with a great sense of humour, we are thrilled that Mark Carwardine has found time in his very busy schedule to visit FFI. Absolutely not-to-be-missed!

**Friday 22 October 2010**

## **PHENOLOGY - WHY SHOULD WE CARE?**

with **Dr Tim Sparks**

Is Spring coming earlier? Is climate change affecting our wildlife? Will the food chain break down as different species react in different ways to temperature change? The study of Phenology concentrates on the timing of natural events, and Tim Sparks, a fabulous speaker, from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology will entertainingly explain this for us.

**Friday 26 November 2010**

## **SAVING RHINOS with Cathy Dean**

Cathy Dean is the Executive Director of Save the Rhino International, a partner with Chester Zoo on several of our outreach conservation projects with Rhino. Cathy will be detailing the many projects across the globe which Save the Rhino International are directly involved with and how that critically important work is carried out and funded. This promises to be an excellent evening.

*Tickets: May be available on the door but advanced booking helps to keep costs down. Please call Penny Rudd on 01244 650215 to reserve tickets. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at the Zoo's Russell Allen Lecture Hall, off the A41, just before the Park & Ride. Members and non-Members of FFI are welcome to attend and tickets cost £8.00 for FFI Members and £9.00 for non-Members of FFI, with a ticket concession of £5 for students. All ticket prices include a buffet and wine.*



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Founded in 1934, the North of England Zoological Society is a registered charity and receives no Government funding. We need your help and support to raise funds for the care and conservation of rare and endangered animals both in the Zoo and across the world.

Registered charity No. 306077